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On Being Asked If the Anklet I'm Wearing Is an Old Charm Bracelet of Mine

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MARGARET GIBSON

*On Being Asked if the Anklet I'm Wearing
Is an Old Charm Bracelet of Mine*

I reply
by stamping my foot
until the gemstones and pearls are a fierce rush of fire,
a dance called
taking the shortcut home . . .

I reply by pointing to
the cold moon's rim in the whirl and tumble-by
river on whose ripples dove cry scatters . . .

I reply with the gesture
the oldest and most purely naked of women would make
to inhabit
the high wild notes of mountains by the sea . . .